

of information and protection for those seeking quality, affordable housing.

Peter Restaino, the president of the BIA, is committed to honoring the group's origins and to connect current members with that proud tradition. He has directed Matthew Hodorowski, a former BIA president, to compile a history of the organization that will be shared with those participating in the anniversary celebration to be held at the historic Wilkes-Barre Westmoreland Club.

Mr. Restaino has stated that the BIA's focus has been to consistently represent the interests of the building community and to assure an adequate supply of quality housing at fair prices across northeastern Pennsylvania.

Services provided by the BIA include education, a group insurance program and sharing information about the interests of members with all levels of government.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Building Industry Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania for 50 years of service to the people of northeastern Pennsylvania. Their commitment to the principles of professionalism, tradesmanship and honorable business practices has earned them an enviable reputation throughout the northeastern Pennsylvania region.

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IN CELEBRATION OF RAMADAN  
AND THE IFTAR CEREMONY

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**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Muslim holiday of Ramadan, and to celebrate the Community Iftar held by the Council on American-Islamic Relations of Ohio.

In the Muslim tradition, the month of Ramadan is one of contemplation and spirituality. Muslims throughout Northeast Ohio and the world endeavor to deepen their individual faith and grow as a community. Muslims do this through conscious efforts to refrain from thoughts and actions that would stunt their spiritual growth. They also read the entire Qur'an.

Muslims also bring themselves closer to this spiritual ideal through their observance of the Sawm, or fast. The Sawm is a cleansing and invigorating practice that renews the spirit. To break the fast and make a renewed commitment to their family and community, Muslims gather for the Iftar dinner. Keeping with the intention of the holiday, the Iftar is an opportunity for spiritual growth in the continued pursuit of peace and understanding.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating Ramadan. As Muslims throughout Northeast Ohio gather for CAIR's Community Iftar, I wish them all peace and happiness on their spiritual journey.

IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN'S APPLI-  
CATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN  
THE UNITED NATIONS

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, in his 2004 State of the Union Address, President Bush said, "I believe that God has planted in every human heart the desire to live in freedom. And even when that desire is crushed by tyranny for decades, it will rise again."

For decades, the people of Taiwan have been living under the tyranny of Chinese repression of their rights to join world bodies and engage in peaceful relations with the international community. Taiwan and the government of President Chen Shui-bian are continuing their pursuit for more than a decade to achieve a seat at the table of the United Nations. However, they have run into obstacles from the UN Secretary General.

For several years, tensions in the Taiwan straits have been escalating due to China's refusal to give up using military force against Taiwan. China has deployed tactical missiles along its coast aimed at Taiwan. In addition the Anti-Secession Act passed by China in 2005 has increased tensions in the straits. These actions have left the people of Taiwan searching for a means of peacefully resolving their differences. One of the world's foremost bodies for resolving differences and promoting peace in the world is of course, the United Nations. Given China's acts of aggression towards Taiwan, it should come as little surprise that the government in Taipei is now turning towards the peacekeeping body for membership.

Madam Speaker, I hope the Secretary General will reconsider his position on Taiwan's membership to this international body dedicated to maintaining a peaceful world. Taiwan must be allowed to join this body to protect its political and economic development, as well as, its peace and security. Acceptance of Taiwan into the United Nations will allow the two governments to work with the international community on equal and neutral terms to resolve the tensions in the Taiwan Strait. The United States has much to gain from a demilitarized Taiwan Strait. UN membership for Taiwan can help U.S. and Taiwanese interests. I wholeheartedly support this application for United Nations membership.

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CONOR FREDERICK KILLEN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Conor Frederick Killen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Conor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Conor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Conor Frederick Killen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO BERLIN  
FIFE AND DRUM CORPS ON 225  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Berlin Fife and Drum Corps on reaching its 225th year of service. The Berlin Fife and Drum Corps is the oldest continuous Fife and Drum Corps in the nation.

Better known to veterans as "The Frosty Suns of Thunder," the Corps is a band from Berlin, Pennsylvania that performs for military support groups and participates in various parades. They play traditional martial music dating back to the Revolutionary War, and more recently have added military medleys to their performances.

The Berlin Fife and Drum Corps was founded by George Johnson, who joined the Revolutionary Army in 1777 and served as a fifer for 3 years, and later returned to Berlin, afterwards forming the Corps. The Berlin Fife and Drum Corps were expert musicians who invigorated their audiences and were often greeted with enthusiastic cries of "Here comes Berlin!"

In addition to performing in parades, the Corps decorated American flags and placed them on the graves of war veterans in the Allegheny region. In 1887 they began the tradition of playing at memorial services at the Mount Lebanon Cemetery and the Berlin I.O.O.F. Cemetery. This tradition is carried on today.

Membership in the Berlin Fife and Drum Corps is a long and celebrated tradition in Berlin. Several members have proudly served for over 40 years. The Berlin Fife and Drum Corps is a striking example of patriotism and is a source of pride for the Allegheny region. I, along with members of the Berlin community, would like to thank the Corps for their service and enthusiasm, and congratulate them on continuing this tradition for 225 years.

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TRIBUTE TO RICK DIEGEL

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rick Diegel. Rick is the Political and Legislative Director for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and is retiring at the end of this month.

Rick Diegel exemplifies the best in an American worker and advocate for the American worker. He has been an electrician and member of his union for 37 years. After rising to the position of Business Agent for IBEW Local Union 278 in Corpus Christi, Texas, Rick Diegel left his Texas home in 1983 to accept